

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application and stand rejected.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 5,978,673 to Alperovich et al. in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,587,688 to Chambers. Applicant respectfully disagrees, and reiterates his previous assertion that Alperovich is essentially irrelevant to the subject matter of the present invention, as it discloses providing location-based call forwarding within a mobile telecommunications network. As is well known in the art, call forwarding is a technology wherein when a call cannot be delivered to the called party for some reason, e.g. if the called party is busy, the call can be rerouted to another number that is predefined by the called party. This has nothing in common with the presently claimed implementation of localized roaming of mobile subscribers.

More specifically, and with reference to col. 7 ll. 3-41 of Alperovich, whenever a mobile station travels into a new location area, the mobile station performs a location update with the serving mobile switching center (MSC). The serving MSC performs a location update with the home location register (HLR) associated with the mobile station to inform the HLR of the mobile station's new location and to retrieve the requisite subscriber data. The HLR receives the location update signal from the serving MSC and determines the service area currently serving the roaming mobile station. Utilizing the determined service area, the HLR *retrieves the subscriber data, including the location-based call forwarding data*, correlated with the current service area for the roaming mobile station. Upon receiving the *location-based call forward to numbers* from the HLR, the serving MSC stores the data at the attached VLR. Therefore, utilizing the service area dependent subscriber data, including the predetermined forward to numbers, provided by the HLR, the serving MSC provides mobile service to the roaming mobile station.

It is thus clear that in Alperovich the HLR in the home network *retrieves the location-based call forward to numbers* and sends the data to the serving MSC in the roaming network which then stores the data at the attached VLR. The location-based call forward to numbers are related to call forwarding and associated with other telecommunications terminals which may be wireless terminals or wired terminals. These location-based call forward to numbers are clearly, completely different from the *local mobile phone number in the contracted roaming network* as defined in claim 1, which can be utilized by the roaming subscriber to initiate an outgoing call or receive an incoming call.

Applicant thus respectfully submits that Alperovich does not in fact teach or make obvious, at the very least, the claimed limitations of:

“the HLR in the home network is adapted to inform an RNM corresponding to the current location of a subscriber roaming in the contracted roaming network of subscriber location update upon receiving a request from the VLR in the contracted roaming network;

the RNM is adapted to allocate a local mobile phone number from a pool of local mobile phone numbers in the contracted roaming network for the subscriber, store mapping between the allocated local mobile phone number and the subscriber, and return the allocated local mobile phone number to the HLR in the home network, and wherein the allocated local mobile phone number is adapted to be utilized to process an incoming call or an outgoing call in the contracted roaming network; and

the HLR in the home network is further adapted to send the local mobile phone number in the contracted roaming network to the VLR in the contracted roaming network to be inserted in the VLR in the contracted roaming network.”

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that Alperovich does not support the Examiner's rejection. Applicant further respectfully submits that Chambers does not cure the deficiencies of Alperovich discussed above. For instance, and referring specifically to col. 4 ll. 36-47, Chambers teaches that *when a call for an international roamer comes into the home system*, the HLR sends a route request to the visited system. *The visited MSC* then assigns a temporary local directory number (TLDN) to the roamer; *this TLDN is forwarded to the VLR; the VLR then forwards the international TLDN to the HLR and thence to the home MSC*; and the call is then routed, using the international TLDN, using the international TLDN, to the roamer.

Thus, in Chambers the TLDN is assigned for the roamer for routing an incoming call destined for the roamer. In contrast, in the network of claim 1, the local mobile phone number in the contracted roaming network is allocated for the roaming subscriber when the subscriber roams into the contracted roaming network, and *is adapted to be utilized to process an incoming call or an outgoing call in the contracted roaming network when the subscriber receives the incoming call or initiates the outgoing call*. Furthermore, in Chambers the assignment of the TLDN is performed by the visited MSC, and the assigned TLDN is sent from the visited MSC to the HLR and the home MSC via the VLR. In contrast, in the network of claim 1, the allocation of the local mobile phone number is performed by the RNM connected with the HLR, and the allocated number is sent from the RNM to the VLR via the HLR.

Applicant notes that in yet another sincere effort to move this case to issue, claim 1 has hereby been further amended to even more clearly delineate its scope and set it apart from the art on record. In view of all of the preceding, Applicant respectfully submits that presently amended claim 1 is in fact novel and nonobvious over the art on record, and requests the Examiner to kindly reconsider and allow claim 1.

Claims 2-19 depend from claim 1. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Therefore, in light of the above discussion of claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 2-19 are also allowable at least in view of their dependency on claim 1.

Regarding the prior art made of record by the Examiner but not relied upon, Applicant believes that this art does not render the pending claims unpatentable.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and respectfully urges the Examiner to pass this case to issue.

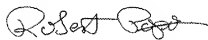
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